United Nations A/54/899

General Assembly

Distr.: General
7 June 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 131

Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Jan Piotr **Jaremczuk** (Poland)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 17 September 1999, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 59th, 60th and 74th meetings, on 8 May and 2 June 2000. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/54/SR.59, 60 and 74).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General concerning the financial performance of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 (A/54/780);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General containing the proposed budget for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 (A/54/785);

(c) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/54/841 and Add.7).

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.60

4. At the 74th meeting, on 2 June, the representative of Cuba, Vice-Chairman of the Committee and coordinator of the informal consultations on this item, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara" (A/C.5/54/L.60) and orally revised it as follows:

(a) In the second preambular paragraph, the reference to Security Council resolution 1292 (2000) of 29 February 2000 was replaced by a reference to Security Council resolution 1301 (2000) of 31 May 2000;

(b) At the end of operative paragraph 13, the words "beyond 30 June 2000" were replaced by the words "beyond 31 July 2000".

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.60, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara[1] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution 1301 (2000) of 31 May 2000,

Recalling its resolution 45/266 of 17 May 1991 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 53/18 B of 8 June 1999,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Mission are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Mission, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically

[1] A/54/780 and A/54/785.
[2] A/54/841 and Add.7.

less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara as at 30 April 2000, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 77.2 million United States dollars, representing 19 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes that some 3 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

3. *Expresses concern* about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

4. *Urges* all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full and on time;

5. *Expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

6. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

7. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

8. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Mission, and for this purpose requests the Secretary-General to speed up the implementation of the asset management system at all peacekeeping missions in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/1 of 15 October 1997;

9. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the Mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

12. *Decides* to reduce the appropriation authorized for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 under the terms of General Assembly resolutions 52/228 B of 26 June 1998 and 53/18 A of 2 November 1999 from the amount of 60 million dollars gross (55,918,800 dollars net) to the amount of 46,031,077 dollars gross (43,001,827 dollars net), equal to the amount apportioned among Member States for the period from 1 July 1998 to 31 March 1999, and to extend the period covered by the apportionment until 30 June 1999;

13. *Decides also* to appropriate to the Special Account for the Mission the amount of 49,317,037 dollars gross (45,078,102 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001, inclusive of the amount of 2,339,659 dollars gross (1,979,841 dollars net) for the support account for peacekeeping operations and the amount of 365,778 dollars gross (325,461 dollars net) for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, to be apportioned, as an ad hoc arrangement, among Member States at a monthly rate of 4,109,753 dollars gross (3,756,509 dollars net), in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995, 50/224 of 11 April 1996, 51/218 A to C of 18 December 1996 and 52/230 of 31 March 1998 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993, 50/451 B of 23 December 1995 and 54/456 to 54/458 of 23 December 1999, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 2000, as set out in its resolutions 52/215 A of 22 December 1997 and 54/237 A of 23 December 1999, and for the year 2001,[4] subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission beyond 31 July 2000;

14. *Decides further* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 A (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 13 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 4,238,935 dollars approved for the Mission for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001;

[3] A/54/841/Add.7.
[4] To be adopted by the General Assembly.

15. *Decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against the apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 13 above, their respective share in the unencumbered balance of 1,423,377 dollars gross (603,627 dollars net) in respect of the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999;

16. *Decides also* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, their share of the unencumbered balance of 1,423,377 dollars gross (603,627 dollars net) for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 shall be set off against their outstanding obligations;

17. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

18. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the United Nations participating in the Mission;

19. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara".